

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

1. Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 15, lines 3-5, as follows:

d. The inventory investment at each location j is less than or equal to the inventory investment limit Inv_j for location j , which may be expressed by Expression ~~(13d)~~:

2. Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 20, lines 10-13, as follows:

The total cost function and the constraints may also be linearized at step 154 in order to allow the objective function to be optimized by solver 39. The total cost objective function, as expressed by Expression (16b), may be linearized according to Expression ~~(17d)~~: (16d):